

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 2271

EXDIS

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, CF

SUBJ: CONGOLESE PERM REP MONDJO ON U.S. -

CONGOLESE RELATIONS

1. CONGOLESE PERM REP MONDJO INVITED MISOFF KATZEN TO LUNCH JUNE 26 AND SPENT MOST OF THE TIME DISCUSSING DESIRABILITY OF ENDING SUSPENSION OF U.S. - CONGLESE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. MONDJO REFERRED TO A US INITIATIVE AT END OF MAY, SENDING THROUGH FRG EMBASSY IN BRAZZAVILLE INDICATION OF WASHINGTON'S INTEREST IN REOPENING EMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE. MONDJO, WHO EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY, SAID THAT THE US COMMUNICATION HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE CONGOLESE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.
 2. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO THE US IN CONNECTION WITH WORLD BANK BUSINESS, CONGOLESE TRANSPORT MINISTER GOMA HAD TOLD MONDJO THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE. THE MINISTER BELIEVED, HOWEVER, AND MONDJO EMPHASIZED THAT HE SHARED THIS THOUGHT, A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO PRESIDENT NGOUABI, EXPRESSING OUR INTEREST IN REOPENING RELATIONS, WOULD BE RECEIVED FAVORABLY. MONDJO TOLD KATZEN THAT LONG STANDING QUESTION OF CONGOLESE GUARANTEES OF SAFETY FOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS COULD BE ATTENDED TO BY COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH EACH WOULD GUARANTEE PROPOER RECIPROCAL CONDUCT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.
 3. COMMENT: MONDJO WAS AGGRESSIVE IN HIS APPROACH AND SEEMED GENUINELY TO WISH AN IMMINENT REOPENING OF OUR EMBASSIES. HE REPORTED THAT CHADIAN PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE
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ALSO HAD EXPRESSED TO THE CONGO HIS INTEREST IN IMPORVED

US-CONGOLESE RELATIONS. MONDJO SAID THAT OCB HAD NO OBJECTION TO U.S. USE OF FRG CHANNEL FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS BUT, SINCE OUR RELATIONS, STRICTLY SPEAKING, ARE NOT BROKEN, DIRECT CHANNEL AT NEW YORK COULD CONTINUE. MONDJO LEAVES THIS WEEKEND FOR LOS CONFERENCE AT CARACAS, AND SHOULD BE BACK ON OR ABOUT JULY 10 FOR SEVERAL DAYS, PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR ECOSOC IN GENEVA.
BENNETT

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